

From W. M. W. Chapman to W. M. Nichol.

Jan'y. 1861

I do hope you have received it [The A. S. Standard] for it has been the work & the record of an unparalleled year - the year when all our subterranean labors have burst into open day. The long concentrated enormities, the long denied outrages of the Slaveholding community, are now open & undeniable, & every newspaper now trumpets horrors which when we began our work we were obliged to seek long & often vainly to get authenticated in such books as Wold's "Testimony of a Thousand Witnesses," published by the Am. A. S. Socy at a time when our Southern brethren had succeeded by the masterly Calhoun plan they followed (of masterly inactivity) in getting the subject of Slavery completely laid to sleep; forgotten by the whole community. This, tho' not the "Year of Jubilee" itself, is that "acceptable year" which brings us an assurance of not having wrought in vain, & which by announcing to the world

The truth of our principles & our statements,
& the value of our methods, & of our persistency,
will bring us an amount of co-operation,
I trust, by which the days of the Slave's
sufferings & of the Nation's sins shall be
shortened.

You will have
seen by the Standard the whole history
of the situation. The rage of the South
when the balance of power was shifted
by the election of Lincoln; - The previous
treasons of Buchanan, the reigning Presi-
dent, in getting all possible advantages
into the hands of the South in preparation
for the Coup d'etat; the secession of South
Carolina, & her falling into line with her
of the rest of the Southern States, with their
threat of secession also. The consequent
interruption of business relations, & the ensuing
commercial panic - the fall in the price of
Southern Stocks & Slaves; - The sympathetic
spasm felt among slaveholders tools in the
Atlantic cities, as the South surged away
with her puppets' purse strings in her hand:
the riotous demonstrations, & the threat of
a spitting Wendell Phillips (who, having
the ear of the people, is extremely obnoxious

to the defeated northern minority, since they acknowledge that they are such, & that irremediably; the firmness of the Republicans in Congress up to this time - the becoming silence of the President-elect as to his future course, while every emergency of the press has been brought to bear upon him, & every screw turned of public & private effort, to make him put forth some programme of his purposes before taking his seat; - and, having seen all this, I need not enter upon this domain of news that makes history.

Once, & that not long ago, I had the comfort in writing of being able to tell what was unknown to the rest of the world. It is so no longer. Our affairs are now the universal concern. Still, ^{it is} our mission as of old, to break the way for others, - to take the mobbing, & to see the coppers going into some miserable by-player's pocket that are needed to sustain our enterprise.

We are well & in high spirits. Civil war, if we are to have it, (which I do not think) is not so bad as Slavery. Public opinion is so rapidly consolidating under the recent & the present revelations, that I augur nothing but good.

the highest northern university, where
they are known to be the best
that are made (the first of the
publications in Geography up to this time)
the increasing volume of the President's
to his future course, while they are engaged
the paper has been ready to be an important
and seems to be of great importance
and has been put forth as a permanent
his purpose before taking his last
and seems to be all that is not
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There is a well for high spirits. Good men
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and revolution that is now making its way.